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wide circuit of the current from the equator and through the Gulf of Mexico. The climate, though warm, is agreeable in summer and usually keeps between 84° and 86°. The trade winds blow steadily, the waters are clear and the people honest and simple hearted. Biological investigators have already found the life there in summer both interesting and delightful. These healthful conditions are of great importance for northern men when working hard with both mind and body on the edge of the tropics.

While this project centers in Trinity College, shares have been taken by those interested in other institutions and it is in the largest way for the benefit of all investigators who care to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

CHARLES L. EDWARDS.

#### FEDERICO DELPINO.

By the death, at the age of seventy-two, of Professor Federico Delpino, of the University of Naples, modern botany has lost one of its pioneers. For, according to Friedrich Ludwig, a leading authority on the subject, the foundations of plant biology were laid by the publication in 1867 of Delpino's 'Thoughts on Vegetable Biology, on Taxonomy and on the Taxonomic Value of Biological Characters.'

Born at Chiavari, in the province of Genoa, his childhood was largely passed in the garden of his father's house, where he studied closely the habits of ants, bees and wasps and succeeded in discovering the mode in which the great blue-black bee, *Xylocopa violacea*, constructs its nests. His education was the classical one usually given to an Italian boy of that day, and his employment for nearly ten subsequent years was in the routine of the custom house.

About 1864 a friend called Delpino's attention to the account of an English observer of the manner in which a Ligurian orchid was pollinated by *Xylocopa*. Delpino at once replied to his friend that there should be a similar apparatus in the flowers of the Asclepiadaceæ and he hastened to Chiavari to verify this prophecy. Here he quickly found the *Xylocopa* in the act of pollinating the flowers of a magnificent Brazilian asclepiad.

The discovery of the relation between this plant and its insect visitor was a turning point in Delpino's career, for the paper which he promptly published at once put him into relations with the botanical world and marked the beginning of a long series of brilliant researches. Becoming a professional botanist, Delpino taught successively in the universities of Genoa, of Bologna and of Naples.

His predominant interest was always in the relations between plants and animals, but he made valuable researches and thought profoundly on other departments of botany, attacking problems as far away from his chosen subject as phyllotaxy and plant geography.

As a university professor Delpino was probably more feared than loved by his students. No member of the first class which took the final examination in botany at the University of Naples after Delpino's assumption of the instruction in that department will ever forget the wholesale manner in which the failures were recorded. His manner, too, would impress one who met him for the first time as somewhat ascetic. But an experience of almost ten years, of the unvarying courtesy with which Professor Delpino, in frail health and loaded with searches of his own, would respond to every demand for an opinion leads the writer to remember him as no less typical an Italian gentleman than he was an ideal scholar.

J. Y. BERGEN.

NAPLES,

May 26, 1905.

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#### THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

THE twenty-seventh annual meeting of the American Microscopical Society will be held at Cedar Point (Sandusky), Ohio, on July 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1905. The society will be the guest of the Ohio Lake Laboratory under the direction of Professor Herbert Osborn of Ohio State University who has placed at the disposal of the meeting all the facilities of the laboratory and who is planning excursions and collecting trips to demonstrate the rich fauna and flora of this region. The meetings will be held in the laboratory with the exception of the president's address which will be given in Sandusky.

The general outline of the program shows that Wednesday morning is devoted to business, the afternoon to the reading of papers and the evening to the address of the retiring president, Dr. Henry B. Ward, on 'The Relations of Animals to Disease.' Thursday's program is especially devoted to medical zoology, the morning being given to papers and the afternoon to a symposium, led by the president, on animal parasites, their effects on the hosts, with demonstrations of specimens and microphotographs, and discussion. This evening the society will be tendered a reception. Friday the program includes papers and a symposium on fresh water biology, led by Dr. R. H. Wolcott, covering the field of limnobiology. The evening will be spent on the beach and Saturday will be devoted to excursions.

Summer tourist rates make Sandusky an easy place to reach from all points, and the new hotel, 'The Breakers,' which has been selected as headquarters, insures satisfactory accommodations. There will be at the meeting demonstrations of apparatus and specimens both by firms and individuals. Persons having specimens or photomicrographs of parasites and other forms which they may wish to show can send them to headquarters in care of the officers and they will be duly presented and returned at the close of the meeting.

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*COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND DR. R. S.  
WOODWARD.*

At its recent commencement exercises, Columbia University conferred the degree of doctor of science on Dr. R. S. Woodward, formerly professor of mechanics and mathematical physics, and now president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He was presented by Professor Edmund B. Wilson, head of the department of zoology and Dr. Woodward's successor as dean of the faculty of pure science, who said: "It is a rare distinction to have attained a position of commanding eminence at once in scientific discovery, in scientific teaching, and in the direction of scientific and educational affairs. It is my privilege to present for the honorary degree of doctor of science one whose many-sided achievement has written his name high

on the rolls of fame for all of these—Robert Simpson Woodward, for many years the honored and beloved dean of the faculty of pure science, and now president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In a distinguished service of more than twenty years under the national government, as engineer of the lake survey, astronomer and chief geographer of the Geological Survey and assistant on the Coast and Geodetic Survey, his varied and profound researches won for him a secure place in the front rank of those who have successfully grappled with the great problems of astronomy and geophysics. For twelve years a professor at Columbia, his work as teacher and investigator in the fields of mechanics and mathematical physics has offered a model of lofty ideals and exacting standards to his fellow students, whether those whom he taught or those who taught with him. As dean of the faculty of pure science he has served Columbia with a conspicuous devotion, loyalty and success that will not be forgotten. His has been the leadership not alone of the eminent scholar and wise counselor, but of the trusted friend, and his example has taught once again the lesson, greater than any in his own large and difficult field of scholarship, that the cause of learning may be advanced as much by the quality of the man as by the achievement of the man of science. As president of the New York Academy of Sciences, of the American Mathematical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he has been the far-seeing and eloquent spokesman of science to his fellows. He has now been called to a place of leadership in organized scientific inquiry for which history can not show a parallel. Columbia bids him godspeed, and gladly pays her tribute of honor to one whose life and work have been an honor to her."

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*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

THE American Chemical Society met last week at Buffalo under the presidency of Francis C. Venable, of the University of North Carolina.

THE seventh annual meeting of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America